

Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL ALEXANDRIA 0800

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S RETURN TO EGYPT

1. WHEN WITH FAHMY LAST EVENING, HE ASKED ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S RETURN VISIT ON AUGUST 11. WAS IT TRUE THAT THE SECRETARY NOW PLANS TO BE IN EGYPT EIGHT HOURS AND PERHAPS OVERNIGHT? AN AHRAM JOURNALIST HAD TOLD HIM THIS, CLAIMING HE HAD GOTTEN IT FROM MEMBER OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY. FAHMY RECALLED THE SECRETARY HAD MENTIONED HE COULD STAY ONLY A SHORT TIME AND THAT SADAT HAD AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM AT THE PRESIDENT'S RESTHOUSE IN GIANACLIS. TO PERMIT SADAT MAKE HIS PLANNED MOVE TO GIANACLIS, GOE WOULD APPRECIATE SOME INDICATION AS TO WHEN THE SECRETARY IS LIKELY ARRIVE AND WHAT HIS LATEST THINKING IS ON HOW LONG HE MAY BE ABLE TO STAY. FAHMY EMPHASIZED THAT GOE PLEASED HAVE SECRETARY STAY JUST AS LONG AS HE CAN DO SO.

2. TOLD FAHMY THAT AS YET HAD NO HARD INFORMATION,
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BUT HOPED TO GET SOME BEFORE TOO LONG. TO BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, SINCE THE SECRETARY WILL PROBABLY ALSO HAVE TO VISIT AMMAN AND DAMASCUS SAME DAY AND MUST BE IN LONDON SAME NIGHT, HIS LAY-OVER IN EGYPT WILL BE NO MORE THAN A FEW HOURS. THE SECRETARY APPRECIATES SADAT'S OFFER TO MEET WITH HIM AT THE GIANACLIS RESTHOUSE, WHICH WILL SAVE TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN GIANACLIS

AND ALEXANDRIA. FAHMY'S AHRAM JOURNALIST STORY NOT IN ACCORD WITH WHAT WE HAD BOTH HEARD, AND I DOUBTED IT HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM A MEMBER OF SECRETARY'S PARTY. I ASSURED HIM THAT I WOULD LET HIM KNOW SOON AS THERE IS SOME DEFINITIVE INFORMATION.

3. COMMENT: WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR PLANNING PURPOSES HAVE SOME IDEA SECRETARY'S LATEST THINKING ON TIMING AND LIKELY DURATION HIS GIANACLIS VISIT. GIANACLIS RESTHOUSE OPERATION WILL BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE AND DIFFERENT FROM ALEXANDRIA OPERATION. PRESIDENT'S RESTHOUSE HAS NOT BEEN USED IN THREE YEARS, BUT PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR HASSAN KAMEL HAS BEGUN TO PREPARE IT. I HAVE BEEN THERE ONLY ONCE THREE YEARS AGO AND RECALL IT BEING RATHER SMALL. FOR US IT POSES PROBLEM WHERE REMAINDER OF SECRETARY'S PARTY AND OTHER PRESS MEN WILL BE ACCOMMODATED DURING PERIOD OF GIANACLIS VISIT. I PLAN VISIT GIANACLIS TOMORROW, SUNDAY, TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED.

4. THERE WILL BE NO DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS OUT OF GIANACLIS RESTHOUSE AND WE WILL HAVE TO RELY MAINLY UPON THE AIRCRAFT TO SEND AND RECEIVE ANY MESSAGES AND/OR ON COURIER SERVICE FROM AMCONGEN ALEXANDRIA, WHICH IS ABOUT AN HOUR'S DRIVE AWAY. AIR ATTACHE ADVISES THAT ON BASIS PAST EXPERIENCE, IT WILL TAKE AT CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAST TWO HOURS TO REFUEL THE AIRCRAFT AT GIANACLIS. WILL HAVE TO BRING UP NECESSARY CARS AND PERSONNEL FROM CAIRO, AND NUMBER OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON HOW LONG SECRETARY EXPECTS TO REMAIN.

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